

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01

DRC-01 /079 W

----- 094901

O R 020942Z MAR 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO USDEL RIYADH IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

SECSTATE WASHDC 147

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0182

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SY

SUBJECT: LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT

1. BELOW IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF A PAGE

ONE STORY CARRIED MARCH 2 BY GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER (AL-THAWRA) ON SECRETARY'S MARCH 1 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD. STORY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PROMINENTLY PLACED PHOTO OF SMILING ASAD LISTENING TO SECRETARY WHO IS CAUGHT IN A MOMENT OF SPEAKING. THERE WAS NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. MEANWHILE, LOCAL RADIO IS ALSO CARRYING STORY IN SIMILAR STRAIGHT FORWARD MANNER. PAPER ALSO MENTIONS IN SEPARATE BRIEF ITEM ARRIVAL YESTERDAY IN DAMASCUS OF EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF STAFF ABL-AL GHANI AL-GAMASI AND HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SADAT. DAMASCUS TV DOES NOT BEGIN TRANSMISSION UNTIL EVENING. AL-BAATH PARTY ORGAN NOT PUBLISHED TODAY.

2. QUOTE:

PRESIDENT ASSAD RECEIVES KISSINGER AND DISCUSSES WITH HIM THE SUBJECT OF DISNEGAGEMENT OF FORCES.

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DAMASCUS: SANA; YESTERDAY AT 7:30 PRESIDENT HAFEZ AL-ASSAD RECEIVED DR. HENRY KISSINGER, AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE. THE MEETING WAS OVER AT 11:30 P.M..

DURING THIS MEETING DR. KISSINGER PRESENTED THE IDEAS HE CARRIED FROM ISRAEL CONCERNING THE DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES ON THE SYRIAN FRONT. THE PRESIDENT DID NOT ACCEPT THEM AND SUBMITTED SYRIAN IDEAS. DR. KISSINGER WILL STUDY THESE IDEAS IN ORDER TO PAVE THE WAY FOR CONTINUING THE DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES.

DR. KISSINGER ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS AT 6:00 P.M. LAST EVENING, AND WAS WELCOMED AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT BY MR. ABDULHALIM KHADDAM, DEPUTY PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER, DR. MOHAMAD ZAKARIA ISM'IL, ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER, AND HIGH RANKING MINISTRY EMPLOYEES.

DR. KISSINGER, ACCOMPANIED BY THE SAME AMERICAN DELEGATION, ARRIVED IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AT 11:00 A.M. YESTERDAY, COMING FROM CAIRO.

DR. KISSINGER, WHO REFUSED TO GIVE ANY DECLARATION, WAS WELCOMED BY EBAN, ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON. HE HELD A SECRET MEETING WITH MEIR, EBAN AND DAYAN.
SCOTES

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NNN

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